

Bristol, Oct^r 2nd - 1840 Monday

My dear Mr. May.

Your letter of September 5th was forwarded to me to the Mumbles near Swansea (a sea side village) where I was spending a few days, on the 23rd of the ~~same~~ month. It evidently referred to one not received, as I had not before heard of the death of Mrs. May's father. The day however after our return to Bristol, (Sept^r 26th) your letter dated July¹⁶ with the Anti-Sabbath Convention Report, Mr. J. J. May's discourse, & Theodore Parker's Thoughts on Sunday, & Weir's Fast sermon, came to me thro' Chapman. For these books accept my best thanks: the report of the Sabbath Convention I was especially desirous of obtaining.

And thank you too for your long & instructive letter. The death of your father-in-law was indeed a melancholy story.

To surviving friends these violent & violent deaths are appalling: - for them perhaps, the trial is designed; but the event thus closing the life of

of a good man, I look upon as much under
the guidance of him in whose hands are the
issues of life, as the lingering consumption,
the rapid Fever, or ^{the} Apoplectic stroke. How
May I doubt not, will thus view her father's
departure. The same sort of mystery
hung over the dying moments of ~~my~~
valued friend Dr. Carpenter.

You have given me much information
about the state of political parties with you
in most of which I can follow you, but I
do not comprehend your meaning
when you say you think "an election by
the people will be prevented."

I wait with anxiety for the next ac-
count of Mr. W. Phillips. It is well for me
that I had not fallen in with Mr. Chapman
when I had received your letter; I could not
have felt justified ~~for~~ ^{at} having such in-
formation as I possessed, without im-
parting it to her.

My last letter to you was sent by Mr. Jos
Keywood, dated Aug 20th. I hope he
did not consider it a letter of introduction
to be delivered or not according to his
convenience. In that letter I said a little
about Ireland. But there was an excellent
leading article on the subject in a late
Standard, & in the same paper most wise re-

ments of Mr. R. D. Webb's in his letter to the
Editor. You may always depend upon R.
D. Webb. There is in this country a univer-
sal sympathy for the real sufferings of the
Irish, & a great desire to relieve them: but
no clear way seems obvious, for they will
not help themselves. There is no fear of
the Govt. being harsh with Smith O'Brien
& even should a jury be found to con-
vict them. But the general opinion is
that the Govt. have hitherto been too len-
ient in not earlier taking strong mea-
sures. Unmixed evil must befall the
men deluded by Smith O'Brien, Mcyer,
Mitchell &c. The measures urged by some
were heretic, - throwing vitriol about &c.

The Catholic priests are most hostile to the
Govt. & sadly mislead their deluded flocks.
The manner in which they have encouraged
their followers to sneer at the assistance
afforded by the generous people of this coun-
try in the last famine, has done much
to destroy similar sympathies should
a second one occur. I see no amendment
in Irish affairs, & the prospect seems one
of increased difficulty.

This country is usually very tranquil
though you may hear of Charlie Woods
& occasional disturbance. But there is a

vast amount of good sense in the country: it is
too generally known, that evils will be in-
creased not remedied by violence: a highly
well-considered appreciation of our form of
Govt. prevails: the Queen is personally much
liked, and a sort of aristocratic attachment
to Monarchy exists. Besides this, our people
have a thorough knowledge of all that is
going on in other countries; talk of them
with freedom, & judge of them impar-
tially. All the changes that have yet occurred
seem to wear, rather than allude to in-
stability. I do not believe the slightest ill-
will or jealousy is felt towards America
and while very willing for you to have
the form of Govt. you like best, as an ex-
ample to us, I am satisfied that your
Republic ^{acts upon the} ~~is esteemed by~~ the mass of people
here as repulsively. And yet we
have an immense amount of
poverty here, & a superabundant
population. Emigration on a large scale
must I think take place -

You can judge of the French as well as
can. I have no respect for them - Lamor-
did nobly for awhile, but his mission was a
short one, & he was unequal to high duties.

2nd He has probably plenty of French senti-
ment, but I fear a small amount of high
moral principle. He is an extravagant &
needy man. Casaghi seems clever &
brave, but I do not expect a great deal
of him. Casaghi, I have good reason to
know is a man week less of truth. (!)

I wish I could see the ten honest men
to save France! No one I believe has any
idea of Lamartine's being implicated in
the insurrection. He certainly staved it
off for some time, ~~yet~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~have~~
but had not the courage to shake off, or
withdraw from the colleagues who were
by their measures laying the foundation
for a bloodier contest than ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~was~~ ^{he}
at the daily risk of his own life, was keeping
down. I doubt if it w^d not have been better
for the fighting to have occurred in Feb^y.

But these speculations of mine you will
consider as waste of time & paper.

Tuesday Oct 3rd This morning
your letter of September 19th came: many
thanks for it. I trust Mr. Phillips's recovery
will be perfected. Thanks too for the "Ch^olens".
I am sorry Mr. G. Harris was noticed as he was.
He has no accurate information about the
A.S. movement, as I believe. I think he w^d
be the last man to back the pro Henry Club.

intentionally. Now I fear, he would ^{not} readily
listen to the true history. It is so much the
custom here, & among the Unit^s. to hear of
the American Abol^s. as bigoted, uncharitable
obscene, vulgar minded men, & as one
to, & into the hands of all who do not follow ex-
actly in their course; injuring the cause among
those who would otherwise be disposed to en-
gage with it, & doing serious injury
to the interests of the Cause, & at the same time
attention has not been turned to the subject. We
are apt to believe the charges, & think they
see confirmation of them when any strong re-
surgence of the Abol^s is brought to their notice.
This charge for against Mr. Harris, supposing
him to possess true courage & intention what
he had not, will give an advantage to Dr.
Gannett in ~~opposing~~ the impression he
wishes to make upon some of his English Unit^s.
friends.

Mr. Quincy's notice, of
Ireland in the Liberator of ~~August 28~~ ^{Sept 1},
August 28, & Sept 1, are good, & fair. The
ignorance in which the Catholic Priests keep
the Irish, & the utter indifference to truth
which they encourage, are I believe some of
the greatest obstacles to the removal of the
ills -- I like Mr. J. F. May's account of
the Buffalo Convention. I wish in
all philanthropic movements, (the A. S. &
not excepted) that the sentiment was more

general — if the good is done, never mind
who does it.

Is the number of Abolts. who refuse to vote
upon conscientious grounds ~~numerous~~ ^{great}
large? I can quite understand and the reasoning
that would induce many who think that only
Congress can ~~claim~~ put down slavery, to vote
for members, although not approving fully
the present Census which they swear to sup-
port, tho' they hope to amend them. I could
not however so vote.

Liberators of Sep: 8 & 15 also arrived to
day, & I am much pleased with your notice
of the French Dayless which I have copied
sent to Miss Parker who is in Guernsey.

You must not attach too much import-
ance to Mr. Asher's letters: his views are
very ^{of the opinions} ultra, & very far from being the type of even
the class to which he belongs. He may repre-
sent the opinion of a section, but a
small, & unimportant one in this
country, of reformers of all sorts moral,
political, social &c. but they do not in general
carry with them the sympathy of many,
quite as liberal, but with more judgment
& more refinement; & it is curious to see
the great jealousy existing among all grades

of the reformers of our social habits, of the
class that happens to be next above them.

I have heard that Mr. Ashurst's daughters
to show their superiority to the cinders and
conventionalities of society, have been
seen in a cab, smoking opium! - All
these matters I wish to not to go beyond your
self; but seeing how frequently you write
in the Liberator, & believing you not to be
deterred from taking pains to ascertain
truth ^{even} if it should be opposed to theories or
preconceived opinions of your own, I am
anxious to help you to a knowledge of what
I believe to be the true state of things. To
Mr. Garrison I could not write in this way
he would, I think, rather smile at my
simplicity than weigh the probabilities
of my having correct views.

I think you should know, (this I say
in confidence) that Douglass, in answer to
believe to injure us, & perhaps cannot admit
of Miss Carpenter, about the N. H. Co., com.
plain of the "coldness" of his friends, at
Boston; - how much they have disre-
spected him & his supporters, & injured
the prospect of his paper. Now Chapman
he says, prophesied he would soon spend

3/ all his money & waste his time: he ^{is} ~~is~~
pleased, he can live on £50 a year while the
Editor of the Lib: & Standard requires 2, or
3 hundred. I do not say he writes ill-
temporarily, but certainly he feels sore.
Miss Carpenter, who is very kind hearted,
very devoid of worldly tact & know ledge,
& yet very persevering in the accomplish-
ment of any purposes or plans of her own,
thinks it a pity Douglass is thus discon-
certed: I only reply, that I know no more
of the matter than she does, but if Douglass's
friends think his speculations are
unwise for him^{self}, & undesirable for the
A.S. cause, ought they not to tell him
so? I trust however, you will go on amicably
with him. Much allowance ought to be made
for a man who has passed the first 20 years of
his life with no moral training or in any
advantage he ~~can~~ ^{could} obtain to the perilous
exercise of deceit.

Miss Carpenter is getting up an A.S. album
for the Boston Fair, containing A.S. senti-
ments, original & extracted, written &
submitted by friends of your cause who
have excelled themselves in the Fair contribu-

butters, & of such as peacefully, whose names
are known to you. Dr. Brown, Lady Byron,
Lord & Lady Lovelace (Ada Byron) have
written in it. I have just sent to Geo. Thompson
to ask him for something to be
printed in.

I ~~received~~^{had} the receipt from the Lib.
Office: Mr. Walcott appears to me a
most excellent man of business.

Do not suppose I have any prejudice
against Hydropathy when practiced by
honest & skilful men. The Boston physis
have done the public service in certifying
to the integrity of the Northampton phlegm
society. It is the unbroken & ~~solid~~^{solid}
conduct of those men, who to get all they
can, declare that Hydropathy is a para-
dox that I object. It is a mischievous
practice in unsuitable cases. An-
ticipation is a valuable remedy, but
it will not cure cholera or dysentery.
I am glad Mr. Garrison has fallen into
safe hands; acting on his own judgment,
I should think him quite as likely to
get into a quack's.

You did not point out any easy way of trans-
mitting small sums to you? I am sure very

subsc^d to the defense of Hughes &c by the
by of articles for the bozaar.
We have attacked some Free Church
fell and deputies who came to Bristol to ask
for money upon their Mission with slaveholders
& advised them to send back the money. I
will send you a paper, or the cream of the
discussion in a letter of Mr. Hervey's. Pray
say if the Virginia slave trade is true,
or a hoax: it has been widely circulated
as genuine here, & if it be ^{genuine} it will
have done harm to the Abolition. The
names of "Christian" & "Righteous Ridge"
look like figure & occasion.
your being - another person argues
around us, & gives us a pleasant idea
of your occasional employment.
I am reading Channing's life with
great interest.
I am gratified by the unreserved
manner in which you speak of your
circumstances, & can assure you you
do not overstate my interest in your
concerns & welfare.
Thank you for your account of my
portrait of Dr. Channing: the enumeration
of the portraits in the Memoir, (last Vol.)
is clearly inaccurate.
I have never entered into the Hawitt

despise. They are not people exactly to
my mind, & the sort of agitation they are
at, does not appear to me a healthy one.

I am sorry your postage is increased - I
will let Mr. Rowland Hill, our great post office
reformer who is a friend of mine, know what
you say about the late alterations. He is
for the utmost cheapness & liberality,
but has hard battles to fight with the
old officials, & sincere placemen
of our General P. O.

I am writing very illegibly & in a too
fragmentary manner. Pray excuse it.

It has occurred to me now, that by an election
"by the people," you may mean one by the demos-
cratic party. (1) Mr. Russell Carpenter

has no idea of going to America: your's was the first
intimation I had that the idea ever crossed
his mind. The inquiry is he made, I understand,
he wished to be candid and private. I have
lately lost a nephew, a clergyman of the Estab^t.
Dr. Prichard's eldest son: he was consumptive
& spent the 2 last winters in the W. Indies, but
died suddenly from hæmoptysis five minutes
after I had left him in good spirits, to attend the
meeting of which the enclosed extract refers -

I have just been writing out a notice for the third
number of the Contributor to the Boston Fair being open
for public inspection on Monday, Tuesday except
My daughter is at home. With kind wishes &
regards to her & to your young circle, I am, my dear Sir,
Sincerely Yours J. R. Lillie